

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/625,206

Examiner

Stephen F. Gerrity

Applicant(s)

DARCY ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 23 September 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-22.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 04 February 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Tallam Nguti (applicant's representative) on 11 October 2004.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

Rewrite claim 2 as follows:

2. The machine of Claim 1, including a folding station having a tucking device for tucking an overlapping portion of the lead end of the protective sheet around said tightly folded belt and protective sheet assembly of the protective sheet and the photoconductive belt loop.

Rewrite claim 3 as follows:

3. The machine of Claim 1, wherein said light occluding and protective flexible sheet is comprised of black photo paper.

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Rewrite claim 8 as follows:

8. The packaging machine of Claim 5, including a folding station having a tucking device for tucking an overlapping portion of a lead end of the sheet of photo paper around said tightly folded belt and paper assembly of the sheet of photo paper and the photoconductive belt loop.

Rewrite claim 9 as follows:

9. The packaging machine of Claim 5, wherein said second carriage includes a hold-down finger for tucking a trail end portion of said sheet of photo paper over a tucked overlapping portion of the lead end of said sheet of photo paper.

Rewrite claim 13 as follows:

13. The packaging machine of Claim 5, wherein said first mandrel and said second mandrel are rotatable about each other for folding a tensioned photoconductive belt loop and sheet of photo paper assembly into said tightly folded belt and paper assembly.

Rewrite claim 17 as follows:

17. The packaging machine of Claim 8, including a horizontal bar for pressing a tucked trail end of said sheet of photo paper over a tucked said overlapping portion of the lead end of said sheet of photo paper.

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Rewrite claim 18 as follows:

18. The packaging machine of Claim 9, including means for rotating said hold-down finger from a home position into a deflecting and tucking position for tucking said trail end portion of said sheet of photo paper.

Rewrite claim 19 as follows:

19. The packaging machine of Claim 10, including means for moving the photoconductive belt loop tensioned about said second and said third packaging core members through said gate and against said threaded lead end of said fed web of photo paper, thereby pulling an upper section and a lower section of a sheet of photo paper web within said arc-shaped paper guide over the tensioned photoconductive belt loop.

Rewrite claim 22 as follows:

22. A packaging method of packaging a flexible photoconductive belt loop to prevent light from shocking said flexible photoconductive belt loop during shipping and during loading into a machine, the method comprising:

(a) loading the flexible photoconductive belt loop having a circumference L1 over a first movable core and a second movable core;

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(b) moving at least one of said first movable core and said second movable core to tension said flexible photoconductive belt loop;

(c) feeding a length L2 of a light occluding and protective flexible member through a fixed arc into a position over said tensioned flexible photoconductive belt loop;

(d) firstly, moving said tensioned flexible photoconductive loop horizontally to a first side to position said first movable core and a third movable core under said length L2 of said light occluding and protective flexible member;

(e) threading said length L2 of said light occluding and protective flexible member over a portion of said flexible photoconductive belt loop within a threading gap between said first movable core and said third movable core;

(f) feeding a remainder of a total length L3 of said light occluding and protective flexible member through said threading gap and forming a larger arc thereof;

(g) pinching the threaded light occluding and protective flexible member and flexible photoconductive belt loop within said threading gap by moving said third movable core against said first movable core;

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(h) forming at least one loop tacking aperture through a portion of a trail end of a trailing length portion of said protective flexible member;

(i) secondly, further moving said tensioned flexible photoconductive belt loop horizontally to said first side causing said light occluding and protective flexible member to wrap itself onto the outside surface of the flexible photoconductive belt loop thereby forming a wrapped assembly;

(j) rotating said third movable core and said first movable core thereby folding the wrapped assembly into a tightly folded belt and protective flexible member assembly;

(k) tucking a lead end of the light occluding and protective flexible member under the trail end thereof;

(l) moving the tightly folded belt and protective flexible member assembly horizontally to a second and opposite direction;

(m) vacuum grasping, tensioning and wrapping the trail end of the light occluding and protective flexible member around and under the tightly folded belt and protective flexible member assembly;

(n) applying an adhesive backed loop tacking tape over said trail end, through said at least one loop tacking aperture and onto said lead end; and

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(o) applying a pull tab adhesive tape over the trail end, thereby holding the whole tightly folded belt and protective flexible member assembly together.

Explanation for Examiner's Amendment

4. The amendments to claims 2, 3, 8, 9, 13, 17-19 and 22 have been made to ensure the use of consistent terminology, to correct minor editorial objections, and to ensure that the claims comply with 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen Gerrity. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rinaldi Rada, may be contacted. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the TC 3700 receptionist.


Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system,

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see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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16 October 2004